

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price's

District 3 Slate

February 2007

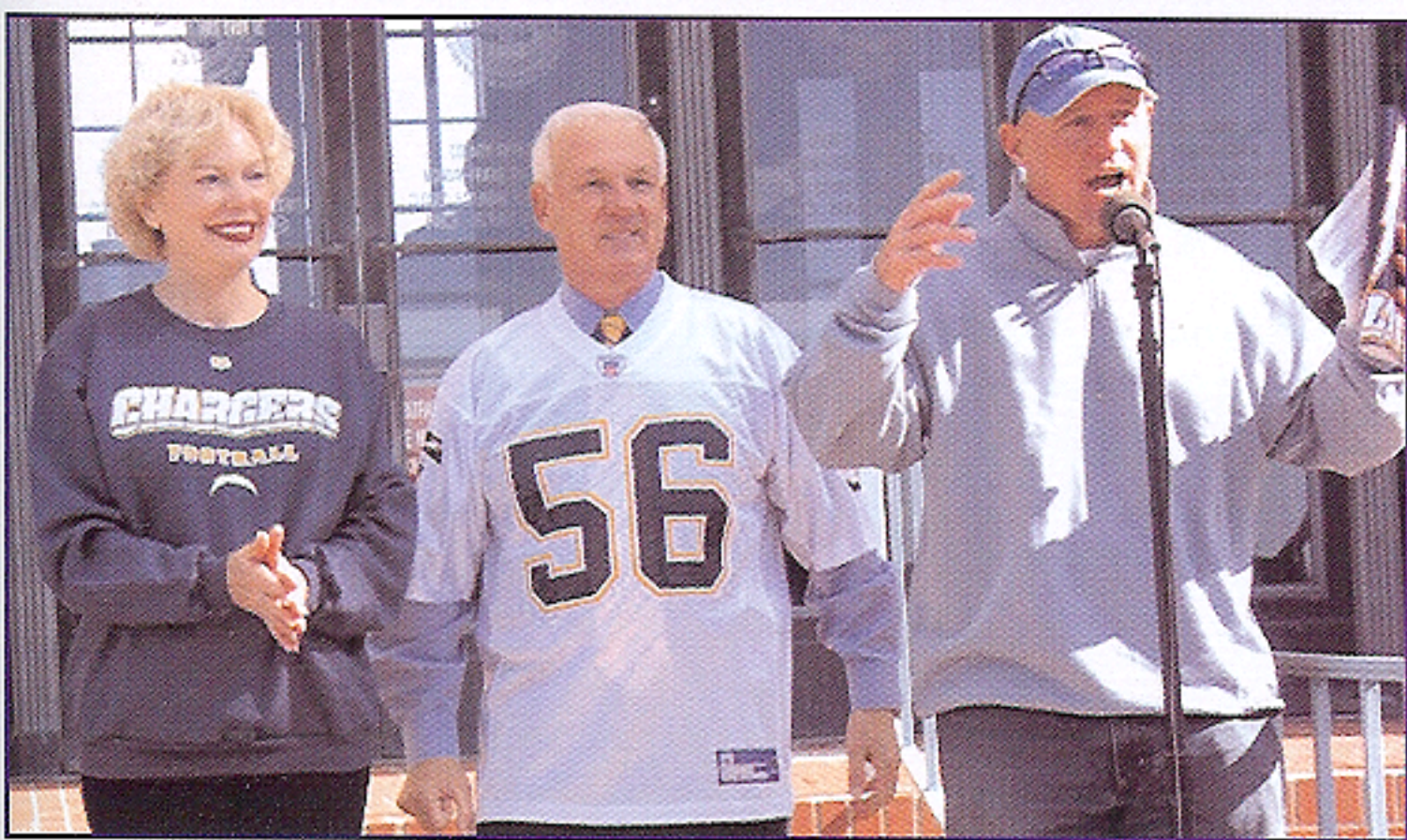
Third District, County of San Diego

INSIDE: Numbers discredit TB scare **PAGE 2** ♦ Grants Help Promote North County Economy **PAGE 3**



WHAT A GREAT SEASON!

Greeted by a cheering crowd, Supervisors Ron Roberts and Pam Slater-Price (above) acknowledge the spirit for the San Diego Chargers during a special pep rally held outside the County Administration Building. Joining Supervisors Slater-Price and Roberts (below) was Hank Bauer, the former Charger and now sports broadcaster. The Chargers won their AFC division with a 14-2 record but were upset in the second round of the NFL playoffs. Even with the loss, excitement is already building for next season! Go Chargers!



Hiking Trail Makes Debut

San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve offers more than 1,000 acres of sensitive coastal habitat and 7 miles of hiking trails. Its latest attraction is a 500-foot American Disabilities Act boardwalk and patio viewing area. The new all-access trail is made of composite wood and has no negative impact to the lagoon's environment. The \$200,000 project was funded through several sources, including a Third District community project grant by Supervisor Pam Slater-Price.

To learn more about the lagoon and the new center, visit the websites at: www.sdparcs.org or www.sanelijo.org.

Stressing Safety Saves Taxpayers' Money

Successful business leaders keep a close eye on costs that can quickly escalate, such as worker's comp claims that can turn a profitable company into a financial loser. These firms should look to the County of San Diego. Supervisors are a trendsetter in containing its worker's compensation costs, saving taxpayers millions of dollars that would have been paid for insurance premiums, hospital care and lost wages.

The County of San Diego saw a reduction in the number of incidents, declining to 144 in just one year. That number represents an 8.32 percent drop, with an estimated cost avoidance of \$1.69 million.

Even better news came in the category of hours of lost productivity, which declined to 22,410, or 14.41 percent of what it was the previous year. This change equates to not having an additional 10.8 full-time employees on payroll. All totaled, the County of San Diego reduced its worker's comp expenditures by \$2.5 million, or 12.06 percent.

These remarkable numbers are due to the collaborative approach found through the county, where both managers and employees team to find ways to make their jobs safer, saving you, the taxpayer.

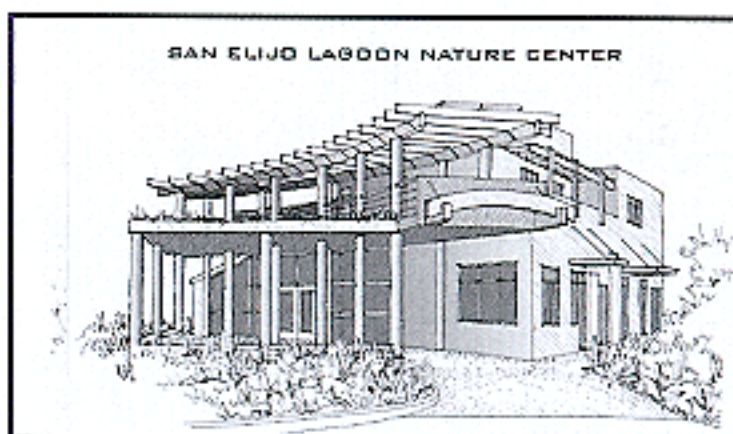
Lagoon Center Gets OK

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price has had a longtime vision of a new nature center at the San Elijo Lagoon in Encinitas for those who appreciate the area's scenic beauty and environmental importance. The dream is about to come true.

The California Coastal Commission has approved the permits necessary to begin work on the new \$4.75 million San Elijo Lagoon Visitor's Center. Construction is expected to begin in late Fall with an opening date of December 2008.

The 4,230-square-foot, two-story center promotes the latest in "green" construction, in which natural and recycled materials are used to reduce energy consumption and the impact to the environment. The new center offers expanded space for hands-on displays and interactive exhibits that clearly explain the lagoon's history and its importance to the natural environment.

The observation deck and classroom space, allows teachers to incorporate the lagoon and its fish, fowl and other animals into classroom discussions. Students will come to have a great appreciation of the preserve once they are able to visually interact with its abundant wildlife.



News of Note...

Board Funds DV Hotline

A Domestic Violence Hotline funded and started by Supervisor Pam Slater-Price to protect women and family members from domestic violence, has received funding once again.

The Board of Supervisors approved the \$200,000 to fund the hotline for the next year, paid for through marriage license fees.

In 2003-04, the hotline answered 5,579 calls, including 1,396 that involved issues pertaining to children. Since its inception the hotline averages 5,000 calls annually. The hotline also helps law enforcement agencies and domestic violence counselors by giving an accurate availability of available shelter beds in San Diego County.

In 2005, more than 21,000 calls were made to 9-1-1 to report incidents of domestic violence in San Diego County.

Working with the various agencies, Supervisor Slater-Price helped organize and fund special units - Domestic Violence Response Teams - that assist women and children to safely walk away from dangerous situations. The National Association of Counties honored the teams in 2002.

Residents and visitors seeking information or reservations for county park sites have a new office to visit. The Department of Parks and Recreation has relocated its administrative offices, which includes its reservation desk and information center, to 9150 Chesapeake Drive, Suite 200, in Kearny Mesa. Phone numbers and e-mail addresses did not change. For directions to the new site, visit the website at www.sdparks.org.

Parks On The Move...

Interested In A County Job?

The Department of Human Resources is hosting two job fairs on Feb. 27 in North County. The first runs from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Health & Human Services, 600 E. Valley Parkway in Escondido. The second is at Sierra Vista High School, 325 E. Bobier Drive in Vista.



A GOOD DAY

While smiles were the order of the day, the topic was serious - evolving San Diego County into a smoke-free region. Joining Supervisor Pam Slater-Price (right) at the "Smoke-Free Stars" new conference were Janie Davis, executive director of the American Lung Association's San Diego office and the supervisor's Chief of Staff, John Weil. Supervisor Slater-Price championed the successful effort by the Board of Supervisors banning smoking in county parks and open space.

County Remains Diligent For Tuberculosis Outbreak

When county health officials issued two warnings in January advising residents to be aware of possible exposure to tuberculosis - TB - concerns were raised that the infectious disease was making a comeback in San Diego County. In fact, the opposite is true.

The 305 cases of TB in San Diego County in 2005 represent a 5 percent decline vs. the previous year, and are down 35 percent from 1993 when the region recorded 369 cases, the highest total in decades. These figures mirror the nationwide trend, which shows a 3 percent decline in cases.

Tubercle bacillus, commonly known as tuberculosis, is an infectious disease that, left untreated, can be fatal. It primarily affects the lungs but can also affect other body systems, including the central nervous, lymphatic and circulatory.

"TB is a common infectious disease affecting people in all aspects of their life," warns Dr. Nancy Bowen, San Diego County deputy public health officer.

The World Health Organization estimates that one-third of the world's population - at least 2 billion people - were infected with the TB bacterium. Worldwide, eight million will become sick and two million will die, mostly in impoverished countries that do not have modern medical facilities. In the United States, authorities with the federal Centers For Disease Control estimate

that 10 percent of the overall population is infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the organism that causes the disease. Extrapolating for San Diego County, approximately 300,000 people carry the infection, with 10 percent eventually developing the disease sometime in their lives without treatment.

Seventy-one percent of the TB cases reported in San Diego County contacted the disease outside the United States, with Mexico and Asia the two leading regions.

The rate of infection in children also has declined. In 2005, San Diego County had 14 reported incidents, down 7 percent from the previous year and 64 percent from the high year of 1993.

The two San Diego cases involved an infected Hoover High School student who attended classes between October and December 2006. An estimated 100 students, faculty and staff might have come in contact with the student.

In the second case, a patron of the Sycuan casino may have infected visitors and staff between June and December 2006. The infected patron has been treated and no longer poses a risk.

In both cases, health officials believe the risk of new infection to be low. Symptoms of active TB include persistent cough, fever, night sweats and unexplained weight loss.

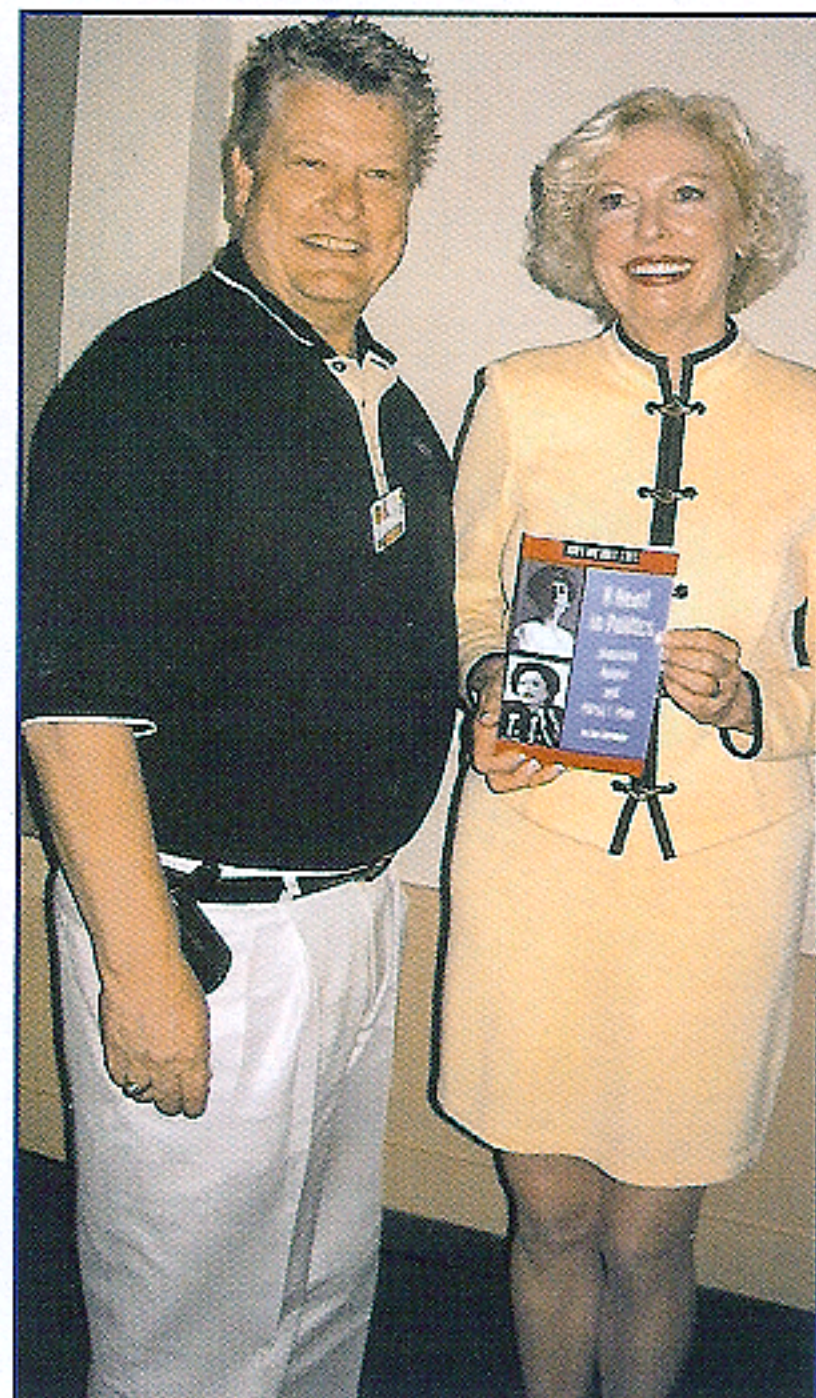
The county operates a TB control program through the Health and Human Services Agency. It can be reached at (619) 692-8621.

AROUND THE THIRD DISTRICT



PAM AROUND TOWN ...

Each month, Supervisor Slater-Price can be found addressing civic groups and visiting with various constituents and community leaders. Recently, she shared what the County of San Diego was doing to offer services for those in need during the annual Gingerbread City fundraiser (left), hosted by the Epilepsy Foundation of San Diego County. More than 30,000 people suffer from epilepsy in this region. Supervisor Slater-Price was also the keynote speaker recently for the Escondido Rotary Club (right), where she received a signed copy of a book highlighting women in politics from club President Tom Knight. The supervisor donated the book to the Bernardo School Library. Supervisor Slater-Price shares a visit with Leonard Simpson (right) while socializing during the Gingerbread City fundraiser.



County Funds Enhance Quality of Life

Promoting tourism and commerce is important to the overall economy of San Diego County. Supervisor Slater-Price firmly believes in promoting the economy.

"I provided funds to the Del Mar Village Association to organize and stage the 2006 Holiday Wonderland, which raises money for its 2007 budget," Supervisor Slater-Price explained. "To help this non-profit business organization offset costs of its event, I awarded a \$3,000 community projects grant. The grant required the association to raise a matching grant, which has already been achieved."

The grant was approved by the county Board of Supervisors in early February.

The Del Mar Village Association works to preserve the community's historic character while enhancing its economic vitality. It takes resources - both financial and man hours - to plan, organize and develop a unique event that encourages tourists to visit shops and spend money to add to the tax base in Del Mar.

The leaders of the Del Mar Village Association exceeded a challenge grant and the Supervisor is proud to be able to assist them.

Last year's festival was themed, "Holidays in the Heart of Del Mar" and included, beside the traditional tree lighting and a visit by Santa Claus, carriage

rides, strolling carolers, live music and an arts and crafts fair. Other promotions included a voucher program that encouraged visitors to patronize Del Mar restaurants.

Escondido Library Foundation, RB Community Foundation Redirect Funds From Their Grants

Two other local non-profit organizations that proved to be fiscally prudent with previous grants were rewarded for their efforts. At Supervisor Slater-Price's urging, the Board of Supervisors gave unanimous approval to both organizations redirecting their remaining fund balances to other worthwhile endeavors.

"These groups are to be commended for taking a prudent approach to the expenditure of their grant funds," Slater-Price said. "They did more with less. That's the sign of a well-run organization. It is an honor to reward them and to be able to assist their needs so that they provide even better services to the people of the Third District."

The organizations are:

- Rancho Bernardo Community Foundation, which provides assistance to the community through projects and programs focused on senior services, youth activities, recreation, promotion of the arts, edu-

cational and civic enhancement, and community protection. The foundation previously received a \$10,000 grant to offset costs of its Thanksgiving fund-raising luncheon. It will use the remaining \$2,800 to make further improvements to its "Pathway to Pride" project and to upgrade an existing website. "Pathway to Pride" recognizes community leaders whose financial contributions make Rancho Bernardo an even better place to live and work.

- Escondido Library Endowment Foundation has been the fund-raising arm for the Escondido Library since 1990. Last year, the foundation was awarded a \$5,000 grant to organize and host its second Scrabble Tournament fund-raiser. It will earmark the \$1,500 remaining from the grant to offset costs for the third annual Scrabble Tournament to be conducted later this year.

Another organization that was fiscally prudent in the use of grant money, but have a smaller amount left over is Elder Law and Advocacy, a San Diego-based organization that provides seniors with referral services and information, and annually hosts a Consumer Protection Day for residents from throughout the county, including Rancho Bernardo and Escondido. The organization has \$797 remaining from last year's grant that will be put toward this year's event.

Jobs, Home Sales And San Diego's Economy

Wild weather combined with our unseasonably cold winter are two factors economists are closely following as they forecast how San Diego County's economy will respond in 2007. The 23rd annual Economic Roundtable, held in late January and cohosted by the County of San Diego, looked at various factors, including demand for housing, job growth, home sales and the weather.

The conclusion: 2007 will not be a disaster for San Diego County's economy, nor will it be a breakout year.

Economic growth is projected at 2 percent for the first six months of 2007, equal to the national economy. The region is expected to create 13,000 jobs, a gain of about 1 percent. Unem-

ployment will remain around a modest 4 percent.

All eyes are on the housing market as a creator of job growth. "There are a number of indications that the worst may be behind us in terms of the downturn in homes sales," said Dr. James Hamilton, UCSD professor of economics.

"But even if home sales do begin to recover, there is still a large inventory of unsold homes that will continue to exert a substantial drag on construction employment and overall gross domestic product growth through the first half of 2007."

January's freezing weather caused about \$50 million in agricultural losses.

"For the economy of San Diego County that's a sizeable amount of money that will never circulate through the hands of merchants and service providers," explained



CHARGERS SUPPORT

The San Diego Chargers gave fans a season to cherish, and Charger fever swept the county. During a rally prior to the Chargers' playoff game against New England, the County Administration Building (above) unveiled a giant banner encouraging the home team to victory. The Charger cheerleaders with Supervisor Slater-Price were also at the rally to encourage team spirit. Despite the playoff loss, fans are looking forward to next year as the Chargers seek a return to the Super Bowl.



Eric Larson, executive director of the San Diego County Farm Bureau.

While bullish on the first half of 2007, the panelists remained optimistic San Diego County will continue to be a national trendsetter. Diversified industry segments in-

clude tourism, hi-tech manufacturing, bio-research and biotechnology and the military.

County staff will closely monitor these trends to see if and where assistance could be given to encourage economic expansion.

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